

THE CHRONICLE

H. H. VANCEY, Editor.

Clarksville, Tenn., April 18, 1885.

TERMS: \$2.00 IN ADVANCE.

THE REGISTRATION BILL.

The objection to the registration bill that it is not general and applies only to the larger towns is no objection at all.

A registration law is necessary in large towns, but absolutely useless in rural districts. In cities the number of voters are too large to be personally known to the election judges, and if the precincts were made smaller this objection would still apply on account of the transient character of many city voters. A registration law is the only means by which the practices of repeating and importing voters can be effectively prevented.

In large towns like Cincinnati and Chicago where there is no registration law, there is never a fair election and the number of votes cast always exceeds the legitimate voting population. In a rural district where no more than from 300 to 500 votes are polled, the voters are all personally known to the election judges; repeating or importing would be next to impossible, and a registration law would be a useless and expensive piece of machinery. In rural communities, too, such a law would, no doubt, prevent a full ballot on account of the remoteness of the voters from the place of registration and the tardy habits of rural populations.

Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville should enact a registration law, and it is not susceptible of proof that such a regulation would unjustly affect either the Republican or Democratic party.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

If England is victorious in the pending conflict with Russia the arbitration of arms will not be a finality. In fact, it will be necessary for England to whip Russia every twenty years to prevent the aggression of that nation southward.

If Russia is victorious, the Prince of Wales will never be crowned Emperor of India, or if he is, the title will be as meaningless as that which will pronounce him King of France. The British dominion in the East will rapidly become a thing of the past. British wealth and British power will have reached its climax, and the downward tendency will have set in, which is to terminate in Macaulay's New Zealand or taking a seat "on a broken arch of London bridge to watch the ruins of St. Paul."

England's empire in the East has been a political project, sustained by commercial enterprise and the prowess of British arms. The Russian movement southward is the natural migration and swelling out of a great people, grown more civilized than their Southern neighbors, who seek an outlet by sea and a more salubrious climate. To epitomize, the English hold on the East is artificial, the Russian movement in that direction is natural. England will probably triumph in the coming year and in several others, but by a dogged persistency, rather than by conquest, Russia will eventually accomplish her purpose.

It has for some time been the duty of the CHRONICLE to maintain a kind of censorship over the columns of the Democrat, and to put that journal right when it falls into egregious blunders. Our services in this particular have not been called into requisition so frequently late in time as in times gone by, but last week's issue of that esteemed contemporary contained the following, which demands our immediate attention:

Barrios the president of Guatemala who has been raising such a disturbance in South America by his confederation project, is reported to have been killed at the Chichulula.

The Democrat is respectfully informed that the disturbance referred to was not in South America, but on our own continent, the Northern division of the hemisphere. We must apologize to the public for stating a fact so generally known—that is intended solely for the benefit of the Democrat.

The Russians have never been successful fighters. Since

When fortune left the royal sword, the prestige of the Russian arms has not been much to brag on. They gained a kind of negative victory over Napoleon by burning Moscow, but they have engaged in several big wars since they went to Paris with the Allies in 1814 and, excepting their brush with Turkey in 1877, have always been worsted. Indeed, it is a question if they acquired anything more than a big debt in the Turkish war. It is certain that they stopped short of their purposes. At the command of Disraeli they halted at St. Stefano, and crept back over the Balkans.

TURKEY is the natural ally of England, and notwithstanding Bismarck's advice, must be drawn into the fight. There has been a long duel between the Muscovite and the Ottoman; they are natural enemies. When the latter was defeated before the walls of Vienna by John Sobieski, the decay of his power set in and his country would long since have been appropriated by the former but for the interference of England. Destroy the British power and the Russian capital will be removed from St. Petersburg to Constantinople in 25 years.

ALL there is in the much talked of Registration Bill can be put in a nutshell. It provides that in civil districts, cities and taxing districts where in more than 1,000 votes are cast, voters shall be required to register before voting. Such an act is necessary to preserve the purity of the ballot in large towns. It would apply only to Memphis, Jackson, Clarksville, Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville. The cry of the Republicans that it is a "partition and disfranchising measure" is utterly without foundation.

The local Republican executive committee at Nashville was instructed by the absconding Senators to prepare an address to the public, and has done so. It is a silly and puerile document, and will only serve to advertise the big blunder that party has fallen into.

The murderers of Mr. Montgomery were afterwards captured and having confessed their crime were hanged on the night of March 11th. The confessed feelings of the citizens on account of the Montgomery murder caused the lynching Monday night. Parties and Ward being members of the same gang that committed the crime on Christmas eve.

THE REPUBLICANS TO BLAME.

AN INTERESTING BOOK.

The Legislature has adjourned without passing the appropriation bills and the effect is very serious. Unless the expense of an extra session is incurred, the public schools will be closed, the judicial and other current expenses of the State will not be met and probably there will be a default in the payment of interest on the State debt.

This bad state of affairs is chargeable solely to the nine Republican Senators whose dilatory action is too well known to be again related. They are wholly to blame and totally inexcusable. The questions whether or not Speaker Henry transcended his authority in trying to enforce their attendance, or whether or not less than a quorum of members had a right to do this, if decided in the negative, in no way relieves them.

They willfully absented themselves and refused to return unless they should be allowed to dictate what character of legislation should be enacted during the remainder of the term. For the Senate in session to have parleyed with them or, in any way, to have noticed their propositions, would have established a precedent by which a refractory minority can mark out and command the entire legislation of a term.

The registration bill, concerning which all the row was raised, would have been a good law. The construction by which the Republicans made it a partisan measure was exceedingly strained, and they will not be sustained in their position by a candid public.

Gov. BATE should at once call an extra session of the legislature for the sole purpose of passing the appropriation bills. It will be no back door on his part that mention of the Registration bill be omitted from the call. In fact, it is not a matter of sufficient importance to include in a call for an extra session, though it is a good bill and one that ought to be enacted into a law. It can very easily go over to the next term of the legislature. The Governor is the Governor of the State. It is not his duty to maintain party pride at the State's expense. The extra session should be called at once. The Republicans alone are to blame for the necessity of an extra session and on them alone can it be charged.

Senators Harris and Jackson have agreed on a number of postmasters for Tennessee whose appointment they recommend to the President. Among them is Mrs. M. W. Johnson for the postoffice in this city. Removals will be made only for inefficiency or corruption in office or for "adverse party" reasons. The latter charge, "adverse party" is a mere pretext. The form of an affidavit by two or more responsible citizens endorsed for veracity by the congressman of the district. Tennessee will probably not be reached until August, though the vacancies which occur in a regular manner will be promptly filled.

Is Gilbert and Sullivan's new comic opera, "The Mikado," the Japanese in march propose a plan, which if applied in this country would considerably thin out the ranks of the young people and catch some who are not so very young.

"So he desired, in words succinct, That all who flirled, leered or winked, (Unless constantly linked Should forthwith be beheaded."

ROSS BUTLER was heard to remark that the action of the Republicans in raising a row about the registration bill was "to consolidate the nigger vote." They feel the necessity of doing it something to keep the colored vote from slipping away from them. The rule won't work; the negro is too intelligent to be imposed upon by such a trick.

GEN. BARRIO is dead, and his project of confederating the Central American States by force has just failed. But would it not be a good idea for these States of their own accord to confederate the confederation scheme? The whole of Central America is not as large as the State of Texas, and would, no doubt, prosper better under one government.

A DISPATCH from Washington states that Secretary Manning has received information that the books of a certain bureau have been kept in a careless manner, that erasures and interlineations have been made after the books were balanced, in order to cover up immense Republican frauds, and that an investigation will show a shocking state of official depravity.

THE Memphis Avalanche rejoices in the death of two political machines in Tennessee. The Vertrees & Co. machine was laid out by the Legislature, and "fortunately the Butler-Houk machine has also been moved, by benign Providence, to a gracious act of suicide."

JOHN STEINMAN said in a speech at Columbus, Ohio, recently, that he needs more business and less politics. If we are honest and work together for the country's good, people don't care whether we are Republicans or Democrats.

Lynchings at Union City. Ward, Ferris, white, and Freeman Ward, col., were lynched at Union City Monday night. They were members of a desperate band of burglars who had infested the place for some months, and were caught in the act of breaking into a house.

Last Christmas eve, Thos. Montgomery, a prominent resident of Obion county, who lived four miles from town, was awakened about midnight by some one endeavoring to open a window. He rose, seized a pistol and fired through the window. Remarkably to his wife that he thought he had wounded the burglar, Mr. Montgomery walked to the front door and opened it. As he did so a shot was fired and Mr. Montgomery fell dead, being riddled with buckshot. Mrs. Montgomery, alarmed by the shot and the fall of her husband to return, ran to the door, found him a corpse and immediately fled in her night dress and with bare feet to her mother's house for assistance. She contracted a severe cold and died on the 7th of March.

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Gen. Marcus J. Wright has recently completed a very interesting work entitled "The life and services of William Blount with a full account of his impeachment and trial in Congress, and his expulsion from the United States Senate." The book is published by E. J. Gray Washington, and the price is only \$1.

Gov. William Blount was one of those strong pioneer characters who figured conspicuously in the early history of Tennessee. His biography considers him a much abused man and the object of the book is to do justice to his memory, as well as to elucidate an interesting event in our national history. The subject of the book was a brother of Gov. Wiley Blount whose remains rest in Greenwald cemetery, near this city, and was connected with other families in Montgomery county, whose descendants are still living in this section.

The first chapter of the interesting volume is devoted to a graphic account of the family lineage of Governor Blount, in which it appears that he was born in Bertie county, North Carolina, on the 26th of March, 1746, and was descended from an English stock, the name of which was Blount. He was the son of a "spolia optima" embraced three famous men in the line of William, Earl of Warwick, Sir Robert Le Blount and Sir William Le Blount, two sons of Rudolph, Count of Guisnes, accompanied by William the Norman in his invasion of England A. D. 1066. Sir Robert had command of the Conqueror's ships of war, his portion of the "spolia optima" embraced three famous men in the line of William, Earl of Warwick, Sir Robert Le Blount and Sir William Le Blount, two sons of Rudolph, Count of Guisnes, accompanied by William the Norman in his invasion of England A. D. 1066. 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